

# The Woman's Pulpit

October-  
December  
2019

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN MINISTERS

## Clergy, Lay Leaders Discuss Patriarchy

Lutheran women leaders who were gathered in Geneva ahead of the opening of the 2019 Lutheran World Federation Council on June 12 discussed progress towards the goals established in the gender justice policy approved by the Council in 2013. Working together to challenge patriarchal structures and attitudes was at the top of their agenda.

Five of the seven LWF vice presidents are currently women; they spoke of many different challenges they face in their national and regional contexts.

Asia vice president Desri Maria Sumbayak said that gender justice is a “very new idea” in her native Indonesia, where some church leaders are reluctant to publicly engage with women’s networks. She said education around these issues must begin with kindergarten children and their parents. Training at the congregational level for both men and women is needed. “To implement Gender Justice in the Asian context, it is probably more effective to approach the grassroots level first rather than the leadership positions,” she said.

### Cultural Challenges, Positive Partnerships

Asia region participants highlighted ways their work is often hampered by traditional teachings about men as leaders in family and society with women expected to fill supporting roles. In some places women who have raised their voices about abuse have suffered from repercussions and personal accusations. Others noted how some church leaders are opposed to theological training for women while others seek to reverse their churches’ decision on women in the ordained ministry.

The Rev. Elitha Moyo from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe reported that her communion was the first in the country to establish a gender justice desk in 2012. The LWF policy

was translated into local languages and offered as a resource for others seeking to follow suit. Despite widespread problems of poverty and cultural conditioning, her communion has established partnerships with the government, the police, the legal profession, village leaders and many other organizations who work together on the urgent issues of

tackling violence against women, stopping child marriages and encouraging girls to stay in the education system.

### Insidious Attitudes, Transformative Theologies

In Europe and North America, Lutheran women have reached top levels of  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Prophetic Leadership & Witness Equals Truth-telling — Lewis

“Prophetic leadership tells the truth in the face of fear, dismissal and rejection,” said Centennial Assembly keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Karoline M. Lewis. “It is relational and invitational.” She noted that the song title, ‘Come to the Living Waters,’ summarizes its embrace and impact.

Addressing some 65 assembly participants on July 22 to 24 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the associate professor of biblical preaching at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, explored two chapters of the Gospel of John.

She reminded us of two truths involved in that witnessing and leadership. First, the church has been changing since the day when Peter baptized the first Gentiles into the body of Christ on earth that, before that event, had been wholly Jewish. Second, the very fact that we women have been proclaiming the gospel in ever increasing numbers over the century of years we celebrated at the assembly embodies, in the bodily presence of our leadership, the truth that the Holy Spirit has continued for longer than the past century to move within and guide change in the church. She said that without our presence the church’s leadership is “only at fifty percent.”

### The Woman At the Well

She chose the story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well to help us explore some challenges

we face as women in ministry. She contrasted her meeting with Jesus and the meeting in John 3 Jesus had with Nicodemus.

In true rabbinical fashion Nicodemus carefully listened to every word of Jesus and pressed Jesus extensively on the meaning of each. Jesus, for his part, told why he was present in the world: “that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life...not to condemn” but that the world “might be saved.” Speaking to Nicodemus is the Word made flesh, getting to know all about him (as he does with each person), liking and wanting to embody a loving relationship with Nicodemus and everyone.

Some time later, traveling through Samaria Jesus engages a Samaritan woman drawing water at the well at noon in a similar conversation. She is shocked. He is a Jew; they don’t talk to Samaritans. He is a man; they don’t talk to women in public. It is the hottest time of day; has he no other place to go?

They talk. He tells her to bring her husband. She says she has none. He astonishes her by telling her he knows she has had five and is now living with a man but not married to him. She is ab-

*(Continued on page 4)*

The International Association  
Of Women Ministers  
M. Madeline Southard, Founder  
(1877-1967)

Vol. 97 October-December 2019 No. 4

**Editor**

LaVonne Althouse  
14 St. Mark Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Marian P. Shearer

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

PAST PRESIDENT: Marian P. Shearer  
PRESIDENT: J. Dorcas Gordon  
dorcascgordon1@gmail.com  
PAST VICE PRESIDENT: Ofelia Ortega Suarez  
VICE PRESIDENT: Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes  
RECORDING SEC.: Cynthia Walton-Leavitt  
cynuff@aya.yale.edu  
TREASURER: Carol S. Brown  
csbrown550@hotmail.com  
CO-INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS:  
Daylins Ruffin Pardo, abraxas@oar.co.uk  
Roswitha Golder,  
roswitha.golder@bluewin.ch  
ARCHIVIST: To be announced  
NOMINATIONS CHAIR: To be announced

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Doris Campbell Angela Trejo Haager  
Elizabeth Tapia

**TRUSTEES**

Catherine G. Borchert Ellie Johns-Kelly  
Janice Barker-McLaughlin Susan Black

STATUTORY AGENT FOR THE STATE OF  
OHIO: Catherine G. Borchert

**REGIONAL CONTACTS**

CANADA: J. Dorcas Gordon  
jdgordon@utoronto.ca  
CUBA: Ofelia Ortega Suárez  
intre@enet.cu, ofeliaortega@gmail.com  
GREAT BRITAIN: To be announced  
HUNGARY: Eszter Karsay  
ekarsay@freemail.hu  
PHILIPPINES: Elizabeth Tapia  
eliztapia5@gmail.com  
SWITZERLAND: Roswitha Golder  
roswitha.golder@bluewin.ch  
IOWA: Mary K. Green  
revmary@iowatelecom.net  
WESTERN PA.: Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes  
pastor@elzelienople.org

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to The Woman's  
Pulpit, 1921 Palm Street, Reading, PA 19604.

Published quarterly.

Periodicals postage paid at Reading, PA.

**Patriarchy—**

*(Continued from page 1)*

leadership in their churches, yet they still face the challenges of a patriarchal mind set noted Archbishop Dr. Antje Jackelen, vice president of the Nordic region. She spoke of the four dangerous P's: populism, polarization, protectionism and "post-truth." All are on the rise in society today. A fifth problem, Patriarchy, "is the background noise that makes the other four an even more dangerous cocktail," she said.

Propstin Astrid Kleist, vice president of the Central-Western European region, noted there is still a widespread suspicion of anyone studying or speaking about gender and masculinities. As in other Western countries, she said, more women in ordained ministry has not always led to equal status and equal numbers in leadership. "In Germany a little more than 50% of church members are women. Eighty percent of those employed in churches are women. But in the church councils women are under-represented—the higher up, the fewer women take part in administration."

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, LWF vice president for the North America region, talked about a new document that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be considering shortly on "Faith, Sexism and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action." She pointed to the negative comments that women in ministry still face and praised her male counterparts "who are working to bring to the fore the reality of what we thought we had overcome. We don't have the threat of physical violence but we have other more insidious threats."

Youth Council members, men and women, joined the afternoon sessions to discuss the next steps in advancing the gender justice agenda within member churches. All participants agreed on the importance of strengthening theological education in order to challenge patriarchal structures in both church and society. While policies and quotas for women's leadership are a key part of the process, they will only bring lasting change if they are grounded in a transformative theology that replaces oppressive attitudes with the gospel values of liberation and equal dignity for women and men.

(Lutheran World Information)

**Ordinations**

**Roman Catholic Women Priests**

**Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, U.S.**

On June 15 **Jean Marie Marchant** was ordained bishop of the Eastern Region of Roman Catholic Women Priests. Ordaining bishops were Andrea Johnson, Nancy Meyer, Suzanne Thiel and Jane Via. Participating bishops included Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger, Bridget Mary Meehan, Denise Donato, James David and William Manseau.

Marchant succeeds Johnson as Eastern Region bishop.

**San Diego, California**

On June 1 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church Bishop Jane Via ordained **Kori Pacyniak** a deacon.

**Middleton, Wisconsin**

Bishop Nancy Meyer ordained **Angela Meyer** a deacon at Holy Wisdom Monastery on August 3.

**Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

On July 10 in the United States Bishop Mary Ellen Collingswood ordained **Dr. Shannon Sterringer** a deacon together with a catacomb deacon.

**Linz, Austria**

On August 3, Bishops Collingswood and Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger ordained **Sterringer** to the priesthood.

**Albany, New York, U.S.A.**

Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan ordained **Diane Hackett-Stoner** and **Julie Corron** deacons on September 7 at First Unitarian-Universalist Church.

**In This Issue**

**Centennial Assembly, pp. 1, 4, 5**  
Canada: Anglican woman primate, p. 6  
England: C of E black woman bishop, p. 3  
LWF aid on women's human rights, p. 7  
Patriarchy in churches challenged, p. 1  
Prayer Calendar additions, changes, p. 7  
RCWP, ARCWP ordinations, p. 2  
Tanzania: Women clergy mark 30 yrs., p. 6  
Uganda: 1st woman cathedral provost, p. 6  
U.S.: Seminary calls new dean, p. 3  
Copeland-Tune is NCC's new COO, p. 3  
More Episcopal women bishops, p. 5  
Anti-gun violence minister installed, p. 7  
News: Germany, Ireland, Kenya, United Nations, United States, Vatican City, p. 8

# Church of England Appoints First Black Female Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, formerly chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, was announced by Downing Street as the new bishop of Dover on June 28. She will be consecrated in November.

When Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby introduced the Jamaica-born prelate at St. George's Church of England School in Broadstairs, Kent, he described her appointment as "groundbreaking and historic" and said it was one of the most exciting appointments the church has made for a long time.

Hudson-Wilkin said her appointment as bishop felt like a miracle. Since age 14 she has had an "overwhelming sense of being called to ministry," she said, although at that time women were barred from the priesthood.

Raised in Montego Bay, Jamaica, by her father and aunt, she arrived in England in 1982 to train at the Church Army College in the West Midlands.

Ordained in 1994 she later became chaplain to the Commons speaker and a chaplain to the Queen. She has urged the Church of England to appoint more black and minority ethnic clergy and officials. "The church has to wake up. It agonized over women and eventually saw it is right for women to be in leadership in the church. It needs to put the same amount of work when it comes to

minority ethnic people....it has got to right this wrong."

Since the Brexit referendum, she said, she has been racially abused on the street. After "living in this country over 30 years," she said, "for the first time last year I was shouted at in the street and told to go back to Africa."

About the Anglican Church's attitude toward LGBT people, she said, "I believe God created everyone....I have a responsibility to love them—they are part of God's creation."

The Archbishop described her as one of the most influential and effective ministers in the public square and a prophet, pastor and evangelist who has challenged the Church of England over its engagement with UK minority groups.

*(From a report in The Guardian)*

## Lovelace Named VP, Dean Of Lancaster Theological Seminary

Effective July 1 the Rev. Dr. Vanessa Lovelace became Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

A Hebrew Bible scholar, professor and academic administrator, she was formerly associate professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at the Interdenominational Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

A California native, Lovelace received a B.S. from San Francisco University, an M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Bible (Hebrew) Culture and Hermeneutics from Chicago Theological Seminary. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Ministry is her second career. After university graduation she began work in public relations in San Francisco.

After moving to Chicago she began thinking about changing careers. Conversation with her pastor at Trinity UCC led to her enrolling in McCormick Seminary to earn her M. Div.

Lovelace's academic focus includes the intersection of biblical literature with

Womanist and African American contents, which involves race and gender equality.

"That's how I look at myself," she said. "That's my work. My activism, is concerned with the full inclusion of African Americans in society. And that's how I read the Bible."

Seminary President the Rev. Dr. Carol E. Lytch said, "Dr. Lovelace brings extensive teaching experience along with theological specialization in Womanist and African American perspectives that will broaden our curriculum and benefit our students."

*From a seminary news release and LPN, the Lancaster, Pa. newspaper)*

## Copeland-Tune Joins US NCC Staff

On June 10 the Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune became Chief Operating Officer of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A..

A notable ecumenical leader and tireless advocate for justice, Copeland-Tune has extensive experience. She served as director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, as Minister of Congregational Life for Clifton Park Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland and as associate minister of Alfred Baptist church in Alexandria, Virginia.

In the 2000s as NCC's assistant director for Justice and Advocacy she staffed the Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast. In 2018 she served as Director of Mobilization for "A.C.T. Now to End Racism" events.

As Chief Operating Officer, a new position, Copeland-Tune has roles that carry out Council management, strategic and administrative functions. She will provide leadership to the strategic planning process and lead the implementation of the annual Christian Unity Gathering. She will also serve as a liaison to NCC partners and work with NCC President/General Secretary on programmatic strategies and developments.

"I am excited about returning to the NCC in this new role as Chief Operating Officer," she said. "I look forward to lending my gifts, skills and expertise to help strengthen and advance NCC's role as the leader in ecumenical witness and as a voice for peace and justice."

Copeland-Tune was born and raised in Mt. Vernon, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree from the S. I. Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland with a concentration in marketing, and an STM from Duke University. She also has a doctorate in metro-urban ministry from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. She has studied at Oxford University's Summer Theology Programme.

"We are very fortunate to have her on our staff," said Jim Winkler, NCC President and General Secretary. "She comes with the right set of expertise and experience."

*(From a press release)*

## Centennial Assembly—

(Continued from page 1)

solutely astonished. “Who is this man? He knows me and I have never seen him before! And he seems o.k. with that! I feel as though he thinks I’m o.k.”

(Having had five husbands and living with a man who has not married her can be explained in two ways, neither good. She could have been divorced five times; all a husband had to do is wave his hands and say, “I divorce you,” three times and the marriage was history and she was homeless without a means of making a living—well, yes, almost. But it is also possible she had been in Levirate marriages. In that case if her husband died the Law required the next unmarried younger brother to marry her and provide for her. Could five brothers have fulfilled this requirement and died? Did the one son left to the family refuse to marry her (“You are bad luck!”) but still fulfill his duty under the Law to provide a home for her?

Denied the legal and socially acceptable status of a married woman, she was friendless. But this absolute stranger was talking to her like a friend! He was even offering her “living water” which would quench her thirst forever. Well, she was thirsting desperately for friendship and acceptance and he was offering that to her.

When she asked who he was, he replied, “I AM!”—the same name God used to answer Moses when he asked the same question. The one whom John’s first chapter introduces as The Word Made Flesh has befriended her. She cannot wait to tell everyone she knows about him and his precious life-giving gift. In turn they quench her remaining thirst for human friendship, going out with her to see Jesus and inviting him to remain with them and teach them. One feels as though she will remain accepted in that community.

### Where Are We?

Having explored this story with us, Lewis invited us to reflect on our favorite scripture passage and how that scripture is empowering our prophetic ministries. Some 60 women cited as many different passages that empowered them and in which they found comfort, support and the presence of the Triune God.

Next, Lewis illustrated Prophetic Leadership by lifting up the IAWM

purpose to encourage women to prepare for Christian ministry, to encourage churches around the world to ordain women and to encourage church bodies to call them to all levels of service. This purpose is all inclusive, she pointed out: feminist, yes but including all races and LGBTQ. Truth including all is prophetic truth. She did not say it, but here IAWM collectively embodies speaking prophetic truth to power as well as embodying God’s inclusive love.

### International Night

After the opening dinner and worship Monday night we enjoyed hearing from women, most of whose homes are outside the United States but also some born elsewhere now living in the U.S. They included Roswitha Golder, Switzerland; Hellen Atyang-Opiyo, Kenya; Elisa Perez-Trejo, Mexico; Lis Hernandez Martinez, Cuba; Ute Young, Germany; Christiane Dutton and Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes, born in Germany; Ella Sonawane, India; Vima Couvertier-Cruz, Puerto Rico; Tega Swann, born in Nigeria, and Dorcas Gordon, Canada. Two Kenyans wanting to attend were denied visas.

Roswitha said her country is a hospitable land where everyone who wants to come is welcome. She sees the future of Christianity in Switzerland in the rapidly-growing migrant congregations of immigrants especially from South America who come there in large numbers to find work. She leads a Swiss Reformed congregation of these members (and is fluent in four languages).

Hellen from Kenya serves as co-minister with her husband at the Eltofam Foundation, headquartered at Eldoret Town in the Rift Valley. It was founded in 2017 to address needs of vulnerable Kenyans, including widows and orphans, elderly people, people with disabilities and those with special needs.

Elisa from Mexico told of her life there as a devoted member of the Lutheran Church of Mexico. Her mother, Angela Trejo Haagar, a Member-at-Large of the IAWM Executive Board, was one of three women ordained 10 years ago, and serves with the four male pastors in the church’s 11 churches and seminary.

Ute from Germany, like Roswitha from Switzerland, finds that “new life as

a church is stronger” working with immigrants. Six years ago in Bremen she started a congregation among Germans who have returned from Russia since travel became possible in the 1990s. These Lutherans still speak Russian at home but German is the language of church worship and teaching. Ute joined German-born Christane, now an American, to sing in German two verses of a hymn having a total of 15 verses.

Lis from Cuba spoke in Spanish but everyone present caught the joy of her singing and swaying that interpreted her message; all began to clap, stand up and sway with her.

Tega from Nigeria has been ministering among U.S. Presbyterians for eight years and is seeking a call to found a new congregation. She intends that ministry to include advocating for and encouraging single mothers, affirming LGBTQ persons and speaking for those on the sidelines.

Ella, a laywoman working for India’s branch of the British publication house, SPCK in Delhi, finds that gender bias against women in the church in India is as strong as the bias in secular society. She wants to reprint M. Madeline Southard’s book, *The Attitude of Jesus Toward Woman* (which was released as a second edition by IAWM in 1999 and is about to go out of print again), saying, “We need this in India.” She sang a song in an Indian language which, translated into English, says, “I want to praise you, Lord, for all you have done.”

Vima from Puerto Rico, invited everyone to visit the beautiful island she calls home. Although she agrees that life there is “full of complexities,” she is proud of her U.S. territory homeland. She has earned her theological degrees in Chicago in recent years and notes that the Bible is “an instrument of liberation” (her prophetic truth-telling).

Dorcas from Canada, who two days after this evening of celebration was elected the second President of IAWM from that country, described her home city, Toronto, as the most international city in the world. She mentioned that Canadians are proud to be people of the North, although that means it is cold there. She noted that the whole world is moving to the right.

(The Rev. Mary Alice Dougherty was the first woman from Canada to preside over IAWM. From Hamilton, Ontario,

(Continued on page 5)

she was president from 1970-1972. The Rev. Patrice Sessions, president from 1987-89, from Bristol, England, was the first president from Europe)

Christiane, born in Germany and now a U. S. citizen, brought greetings from Anne Moody from New Zealand who could not be with us in Pittsburgh but fondly remembers the Assembly in her country in 2001.

On Tuesday night Assembly goes enjoyed a two hour Chicken & Ribs Lock and Dam Dinner Cruise on the Monongahela River, including watching a beautiful sunset in delightfully cooling weather.

In Wednesday's closing one hour summary, Focus on the Future, Assembly members acknowledged the Christian Church in the northern hemisphere will likely continue to decline in numbers. Since fewer men and women are entering seminary to prepare for pastoral and diaconal leadership, congregations will have to look to lay leaders for help. This will require focusing on the gifts each individual brings to the community and providing for ways to develop those gifts.

Two questions were raised: what will be the consequences of climate change for the church and what effects will continually developing and new technologies have? The members concluded that the church and its members have faced new and unprecedented challenges in the past and will continue to find new ways to meet the new challenges ahead.

War and its desolation, civil unrest and the breakdown of law and order, the need for jobs, and famine conditions resulting from climate change will continue to create migrant populations in many places. So the church and society will continue to face the challenges of offering hospitality to migrants in their new circumstances and helping long-time residents assimilate them and live together with the newcomers in community—and churches will grow as ministry in Christ's name heals fears and strengthens loving communities.

One member described recent history of Christians in China as instructive. She recalled the prohibition against worship in the tradition of any religion before 1980. Christians gathered in house churches to worship secretly and continued to extend the church.

When churches and seminaries re-

## More Women Bishops Seen As Historic By U.S. Episcopal Church

By July 26 the U.S. Episcopal Church had seen the election of nine new women bishops so far in 2019, with four identifying as persons of color. When all are consecrated, there will be 27 women among 131 active bishops, or 20.6 percent.

Diocese of El Carmino Real Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, a leading advocate for women discerning calls to the episcopate, had a two-fold reaction to the pattern of recent elections. "One is I'm elated," she told Episcopal News Service (ENS). "Two, I recognize there is a tipping point."

ENS said that many observers credit the recent increase in the number of women elected as bishops to a confluence of societal and ecclesiastical trends, as well as years of active encouragement of women to consider an episcopal vocation. They all credit the persistence of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Todd Ousley heads the church's Office of Pastoral Development; among other duties he shepherds diocesan bishop searches. He called these elections "historic" and suggested there has been what he called a dance between the larger culture's changing attitude toward women as leaders and

the church's efforts or, at certain points, the church's resistance to making this shift.

Ever since he was in seminary in the early 1990s, Ousley said, there have been equal numbers of men and woman coming into the church's ordained ranks. Yet church leadership at all levels still does not reflect the demographics of the church. "I think that there has been a steady but slow gathering of interest and commitment to shifting the balance of power, if you want to use that kind of language."

Now, he says, "the leadership in the church is clear that the balance must shift, and we've got to use everything that we can in our power to help make that happen."

opened for Christians after Christmas in 1980 seminaries had the additional task of preparing adult education materials for the new Christians who now could worship openly in churches again.

### Business Meeting

At a business meeting on Wednesday afternoon that preceded closing worship, we elected officers, planned for the next Assembly in 2021 and discussed further possibilities of sharing our founder's book, *The Attitude of Jesus Toward Woman*.

Officers elected included Dorcas Gordon, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, president; Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., vice president; Cynthia Walton-Leavitt, Ontario, New York, secretary; Carol S. Brown, Reading, Pennsylvania, treasurer, and trustees Janice Barker-McLaughlin, Alliance, and Catherine Borchert, Cleveland, both in Ohio, Susan Black from Worthington, Ohio, and Mary Eleanor Johns-Kelley from Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Marian Shearer, also from Reading, Pa., moves

to Past President. Names of the full Executive Board are found in the masthead on page 2. Including the officers and trustees, they represent five countries.

The Assembly voted to hold the next Assembly in conjunction with the World Council of Churches Assembly IX in Karlsruhe, Germany, on September 8 to 15, 2021. Board members seek volunteers to help staff an IAWM booth for the eight days of the Assembly where we will meet and photograph clergywomen from around the world and dialogue with them and their male supporters. Volunteer to IAWM secretary Cynthia Walton-Leavitt (email address on p. 2).

The Executive Board was asked to explore the possibility of authorizing republication of the second printing of Madeline Southard's book in India, as requested by Ellen Sonawane, and a possible digitalized publication on the internet. Both options are being explored.

After worship a delicious celebratory dinner ended with cutting and sharing the Centennial birthday cake. —L.A.

## Tanzania Lutheran Women Mark 30 Years Ordaining Women

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) last summer marked three decades of women's ordination by celebrating the more than 300 women clergy in the church and urging the church to ensure all its dioceses ordain women.

"We are happy that many dioceses have adopted and implemented the ELCT policy," they said in a statement at their meeting on June 24-27. "Still, there are 74 trained theologians who have not yet been ordained and two dioceses—South-East of Lake Victoria and the Mbulu Diocese—do not yet ordain women." This Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member church has a total of 2,500 men and women clergy.

The 2019 consultation was attended by nearly 400 women from all ELCT dioceses. They discussed theological training for women, understanding gender equality and leadership in the church, accountability and resource management, entrepreneurship and innovation, and how to address sexual and gender-based violence.

Northern Central Diocese Bishop Dr. Solomon Masangwa opened the quadrennial consultation. Calling for joint efforts in carrying out God's work, he referred to the occasion's theme, saying "Do not fear, for God has redeemed you and called you by name."

Invited guest speakers included the LWF vice president for North America, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Africa vice president, Rev. Dr. Jeanette Ada Epse Maina, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cameroon.

Rev. Setina Kaanga from the ELCT Central Diocese said, "Over the years the national gathering of women pastors and theologians has illuminated the way ahead for women" although they still face many challenges compared to their male counterparts. "We started with one educated theologian who had to wait for more than 30 years before she could be ordained as a pastor. It is very different today. We have hope and faith that there will be greater participation of women in our church," she added.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton expressed appreciation for the opportunity to take part in the consultation, preach during Sunday worship and witness the event. "Seeing the power of women gathering together every four years is a model I would like to take back to my church for our women pastors to have a chance to meet, to spend some time with each other, have some wonderful speakers and also to come up with some action," she said. She thanked the ELCT women pastors and theologians for their message that "women's ordination needs to happen in the whole church for the sake of unity and, more important, for the sake of the gospel."

(Lutheran World Information)

## Canadian Anglicans Elect Their First Woman Primate

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls, Bishop of Huron diocese, was elected 14th primate of the Anglican Church of Canada on July 13 and installed July 16. She is the first woman in that office in Canada and the second Anglican woman primate. Katharine Jefferts Schori held the office in the U.S. Episcopal Church from 2006 to 2015.

Responding to the election, Nicholls told members of the General Synod she believes the church is capable of the task that now faces it of overcoming division. "We have reconciliation to do and deep healing to work at. And I know that this church can do it," she said. "I have seen (us) rise to the challenge of diversity . . . and even though we at times can cause each other deep hurt and pain, I've seen us rise to the challenge. . . and do the

healing work and coming together around God's table which is our calling in Christ."

On July 12 the required second reading of a resolution to allow same sex marriages failed to get the required 2/3 majority in the three houses, bishops, priests and laity. This, after a yearlong divisive debate, left many members of synod in tears.

## Uganda Anglicans Name Female Provost

Rachel Farmer reports that on July 10 Uganda's first female provost was installed at All Saints Cathedral in Kampala, Uganda. The Very Rev. Dr. Rebecca Margaret Nyegenye was ordained in 1997 in Bukedi Diocese and was assistant vicar at St. John's Anglican Church in Busia before moving to Uganda Christian University as a chaplain's assistant in 2002. In 2012 she became the university's chaplain.

Nyegenye whose father was a clergyman, was born and raised in the eastern district of Busia and was the second eldest child to the late James and Janet Efumbi.

She says her passions are discipleship, pastoral care and counseling, evangelism, preaching and mentoring. She is also undertaking research on biblical leadership. She decided to give her life to Christ while watching the film, *The Passion of Christ*. She said seeing the suffering and agony Jesus went through to save humankind led her to take the step of faith.

The new provost trained at theological college in Buwalasi, completed an STM at the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in the United States and holds a doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She and husband Wilson Nyegenye, the National Equipment and Supply Chain Coordinator at the National Laboratory Services of the Ministry of Health, have three children.

Archbishop Stanley Ntalagi, Primate of the Church of Uganda, presided at the service when she and her assistant, Chaplain David Serunjogi, were installed.

(Anglican News Service)

Nicholls, a "cradle Anglican", was a member of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship while studying music and education at the University of Toronto. She taught music at Woodstock International Christian School in India, 1977-82, which deeply shaped her spirituality.

Ordained in 1986, she has served two synods as bishop and has been active ecumenically. Following the first reading of the proposal to allow same sex marriage, in 2016, she, as bishop of Huron diocese, and one other diocesan bishop, announced that they would allow marriage of same sex couples in their dioceses as pastoral measures. During the three-year interim other bishops took similar action. (ACNS)

# New Faith-Based Publication On Women's Human Rights Offered

On May 6 in Geneva five faith based organizations (FBO) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) announced a new joint publication fostering women's human rights. It will strengthen partnerships and broaden alliances to address the growing pushback against women's human rights which has emerged as a shared concern of the five FBOs.

*Affirming Women's Human Rights—Resources for Faith-Based Organizations*, published by the LWF, is a result of a joint initiative of the Women's Human Rights Advocacy Training. That group was organized by the Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid, Mission 21, LWF and the World Council of Churches. Representatives of the United Nations, including UN Women, international nongovernmental organizations, diplomatic missions, some LWF member churches, and some staff of Geneva-based FBOs attended the launch.

## A Support Publication

Maria-Christina Rendón, LWF program assistant for Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, introduced the publication on behalf of the five partner organizations. She thanked the FBOs for the enriching collaboration since 2015, when they first organized what has become an annual women's human rights advocacy training bringing together up to 50 participants each year.

The yearly training has developed into an important platform to discuss the direct link between the theological understanding that men and women are created in God's image and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirming the dignity and equal rights of all.

The publication highlights topics featured at the training with the objective of strengthening the capacity to advocate for women's human rights from a faith perspective, particularly using UN human rights tools such as the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It shows the links between religion, fundamentalism and discrimination, and elaborates subjects such as transformative masculinities, how gender stereotypes are linked to sexual and gender-based violence, and the intersection between Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on gender equality and the other SDGs.

Rendón said, "The contribution of faith-based organizations is of utmost relevance particularly in contexts where religion is misused to discriminate, violate or undermine women's rights."

The five ecumenical organizations, she noted, "have a long-standing commitment to human rights and we share values of inclusion, non-discrimination, a rights-based approach and engagement with gender justice."

(Lutheran World Information)

## Prayer Calendar Additions

### Add these names to the last week in December

Sheri Anderson 807 N 2nd St Jeannette, PA 15644 hzlcyouth@gmail.com ELCA

Ginger Bennett, 11 Trevor Ct Gettysburg, PA 17325 gbennett@uls.edu ELCA

Catherine Bowser 45 Heights Dr Pittsburgh, Pa 15209 cabowser@verizon.net UCC

Caroline Clifford 408 Tyger Dr Greensburg, PA 15601

pastorcaroline@harroldzion.org ELCA

Denise Donato 121 Wakeman Rd Fairport, NY 14450 revdenised@gmail.com

Ecumenical Catholic

Lis Margarita Hernandez, Matanzas, Cuba lmhernandez@seminario.co.cu Episcopal

Ellie Johns-Kelley 274 Glade Run Rd Carmichaels, PA 15320

ellie.johns-kelley@presbyterianfoundation.org PCUSA

Susan Luttner 331 Birkdale Dr Greensburg, PA 15601 Saaaml@verizon.net ELCA

Carmel Stably 3113 Windon Ave Lancaster, PA 17603 carmel.stably@cmag.com  
Christian

Tega Swann 373 State St Apt 2 Baden, PA 15005 psalm84.57@gmail.com. PCUSA

Charlotte Wells 241 SE 2nd St Pendleton, OR 97801

rector.pendletonepiscopal@gmail.com Episcopalian

## Anti-Gun Violence Minister Installed

In July the Presbyterian Church (USA) installed the Rev. Deanna Hollas its first minister of gun violence prevention at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church in Richardson, Texas. She is believed to be the first person in the country to be given a national ecclesiastical role of this kind.

"The saying, 'thoughts and prayers,' has been co-opted by the gun lobby to keep the church from taking action so they can increase their profits," said Hollas in an interview. "While all that we do as Christians should be rooted in worship, it should not stay there. It is like breathing—worship and prayer is the inbreath and action is the outbreath."

The Texas native, 52, says she is "no stranger" to gun culture. She added she is committed to insuring that Americans from all sides of the gun debate stop talking past each other.

From Retreat House Spirituality Center in Richardson, where she serves, she oversees about 800 supporters of gun violence prevention in all 50 states.

She said this new role is to encourage the church at every level to become involved and active in preventing gun violence, to provide pastoral care for gun victims and survivors and to seek a spiritual response to resist violence and seek Christ.

"Guns and identity are linked for many people; that is why I have developed a spiritual practice that helps us shift our bodies from fight-or-flight mode and teaches us to welcome and hold with compassion all the sensations that arise in our bodies. When we connect with one another on the level of personal experience, it leads to empathy. Establishing empathy is key to peacemaking."

She believes legislation is an important part of the work she is doing but "what gets me up in the morning" is creating the cultural change that is needed along with legislation.

She "gained clarity" for this call at a Dallas vigil hosted by a group of interfaith leaders when the NRA met there.

*(Excerpted from a N.Y. Times interview reported in LNP, newspaper of Lancaster, Pa.)*

## **In the News**

### **Germany**

**The Rev. Dr. Helga Hiller**, a Protestant pastor in Tübingen, this year received an honorary doctorate from the Roman Catholic School of Theology at the University of Tübingen for her lifelong volunteer involvement in the World Day of Prayer in her country.

### **Iceland**

**The Rev. Thuridur Bjorg Wilum Arnisdottir**, 29, one of the youngest pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iceland serves three congregations in the isolated town of Vopnafjörður. Of its 700 residents 500 are members of her three congregations.

### **Kenya**

On June 30 the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church ordained **the Rev. Catherine Prisca Hedy** who became the fifth woman among 21 pastors serving four districts including 20 parishes, 16 mission areas totaling 36 units with more than 182 congregations. Also serving are 5 deacons, 1 deaconess, 37 trained evangelists (7 women) 5 volunteer retired clergy and 230 men and women who are lay preachers. Among the church's over 25,000 members the average Sunday attendance is 17,500.

### **United Nations**

**Kate McElwee** of the Roman Catholic U.S. Women's Ordination Conference announced on July 31 that WOC

has been granted consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This offers WOC another platform to advocate for women's equality and also to influence decision makers at the highest levels by delivering statements, participating in negotiations and meetings, and holding side events at the UN.

### **United States**

The Associated Church Press has employed former Pittsburgh Post Gazette managing editor **Sally Stapleton** to lead a new team to report on faith and its worldwide impact.

At spring synod assemblies the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) eight women were elected as bishops and two were re-elected. New synod bishops and synods they will serve are **the Rev. Laurie A. Larson Caesar**, Oregon; **the Rev. Lorna H. Halaas**, Western Iowa; **the Rev. Shelley M. Bryan Wee**, Northwest Washington; **the Rev. Leila Ortiz**, Metropolitan Washington D.C.; **the Rev. Susan Candeia**, Central States; **the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier**, South Dakota; **the Rev. Regina Hassanally**, Southeastern Minnesota; and **the Rev. Laurie Jungling**, Montana. Re-elected bishops were **the Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew**, New Jersey and **the Rev. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt**, Southeastern Ohio synods.

Among six candidates for ELCA rostered ministry from one congregation, Good Shepherd, Decorah, Iowa, three are women. **Menzi Nkambule** and **Amalia Vagts** are preparing to be pastors and **Angie Sadler** will be a deacon.

At the United Church of Christ General Synod meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, IAWM member **the Rev. Liddy Barlow** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received the Antoinette Brown Award for 2019.

### **Vatican City**

On July 8 Pope Francis appointed six superiors general of orders of Roman Catholic sisters and a laywoman to the board of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. These appointments mean that women will, for the first time, have a say over the direction of a Vatican department that includes the life of religious sisters. Previous appointments to the Synod of Bishops and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith were consultative only. The Tablet, a British publication, noted that "Throughout his pontificate, the Pope has slowly set about trying to appoint more women to positions in the male-dominated Vatican."

*(Sources: an IAWM member; Lutheran World Information; LNP, Pennsylvania newspaper; Living Lutheran; Assembly announcement, and Bridget Mary's Blog.)*